

(d) the number of villages likely to be covered during that period in the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The Construction of roads including rural roads is state subject under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and funds for the same are being provided in the State Plan/Budget.

(b) As construction of roads is a state subject, the Central Government is not maintaining any statistics regarding construction of roads at District level.

(c) The Eighth Five Year Plan is still under formulation and yet to be finalised.

(d) Does not arise.

Research and Development by small scale entrepreneurs

4473. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any policy to encourage Research and Development even by the small entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the incentives offered to them for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government are aware about the refusal of Chandigarh Administration to permit even minor changes in the construction of their industrial sheds by small, young and dynamic entrepreneurs;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). Government has been encouraging the Research and Development activities in the industry including the small scale entrepreneurs. The incentives offered to industry in this direction include: the scheme initiated by the Government for according recognition to the In-house Research and Development units in industry; import of equipment and raw material including pilot plant for research and development under Open General Licence; Income Tax concessions on expenditure incurred on scientific research and investments made on scientific equipment and capital assets; awards to industrial R&D units on their outstanding achievements; enhanced accelerated depreciation on the plant and machinery installed based on the indigenous technology.

(c) to (e). Permission for changes in the construction of the Industrial sheds or refusals thereof are being done as per the terms and conditions of the allotment and the building bye laws of Chandigarh Administration.

Refund of Booking Amount by Scooter Manufacturing Companies

4474. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some scooter manufacturing companies have accepted deposits against orders booked on them; and

(b) the steps Government are taking to ensure that these deposits are returned with interest to the concerned depositors well in time on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.